

VFW's strong support when I offered my amendment to increase veterans health care in this year's budget to \$3 billion. Even though it wasn't the full amount of my amendment, the final Budget Resolution contained a \$1.7 billion increase above what the Clinton Administration had requested for veterans health care. This never would have been possible without the grassroots support of the VFW.

Mr. President, as Americans, we should never forget the men and women who served our nation with such dedication and patriotism. I close my remarks by offering my gratitude and support for all the achievements performed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. For a century, this organization has been the standard bearer in the representation of our veterans, as well as their undying patronage to our armed forces and support for the maintenance of a strong national defense. ●

TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO J. PALUMBO

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Antonio J. (Tony) Palumbo, a coal miner from Western Pennsylvania who humbly represents the generous spirit of community.

President and owner of the New Shawmut Mining company, Mr. Palumbo was born in Pennsylvania on June 14, 1906 and actively serves as a Trustee for La Roche College, Duquesne University, Carlow College, Gannon College, the Villa Nazareth School in Rome, Italy, and the Mayo Clinic Foundation for Medical Education and Research. He has also developed unique relationships with the Catholic Diocese of Erie, Elk County Christian High School, the Nicaraguan-American Nursing Collaboration, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Holy Family Institute and the Boy Scouts of St. Marys, PA.

Throughout his years of involvement at these institutions, Mr. Palumbo has gained the admiration and respect of the many students that he has come in contact with. His influence in their lives will be felt for many years to come.

Mr. Palumbo was recently presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives. His efforts have helped build educational and health care facilities, endow research, provide scholarships, deliver care to the poor and support community initiatives. As varied as each of these causes are, they all reflect Tony Palumbo's compassion for the needs of others and his commitment to using his time and talents to enrich the lives of those around him.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Tony Palumbo for the leadership and compassion that he has portrayed, as well as the platform that he has created for motivating the stewardship of others. ●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, on May 24, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed into law the Rogers Act, establishing a unified corps of career diplomats to represent the United States abroad. Based on the principles of professionalism, non-partisanship and merit-based promotion, thus was born the modern foreign service.

This year we join in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the foreign service. Over the years there have been many changes: it has become more diverse, more specialized, and has been called to deal with an ever-expanding list of issues. While this milestone is an occasion for celebration and congratulations, there are some sobering reminders of the task that still awaits us. 1998 saw the worst attack on American diplomats in history, with two tragic bombings that resulted in the deaths of over 220 persons, twelve of them Americans. Here in Washington, we continue to contend with budget cuts that handicap the ability of our foreign service officers to perform their duties safely and effectively.

On the occasion of this anniversary, Secretary Albright hosted a dinner at the State Department as a tribute to the efforts of the brave men and women who have served over the past three-quarters of a century. In her speech, she challenged the unfortunate and inaccurate stereotypes of the foreign service and emphasized the urgency of providing adequate resources to promote U.S. interests abroad. I strongly agree with the thrust of her remarks, and I ask that the full text of her statement be printed in the RECORD.

The statement follows:

REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT, 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE UNITED STATES FOREIGN SERVICE, MAY 24, 1999

Secretary Albright: It is indeed a pleasure to be able to first congratulate Nicholas (Bombay) for winning the essay contest. It's never too early in life to learn the value of strong diplomatic leadership, and although I didn't meet you until tonight, I already like the sound of the name Bombay preceded by the term "Ambassador" or "Secretary of State." (Laughter.)

Congratulations, once again.

Thank you, Cokie, and good evening to all of you. It's a great pleasure to be able to spend the evening here with you, and I must say that a special pleasure for me to have had George Kennan on my right and Paul Sarbanes on my left—can't ask for much more. It has been a great evening to be able to exchange views.

Members of Congress and distinguished colleagues and friends, and so many of you who have contributed to the rich legacy of the modern US Foreign Service, as we mark our 75th anniversary, I want to begin by thanking Under Secretary Pickering for his remarks. There is really no better advertisement for what can be achieved in the Foreign Service than the career of Tom Pickering. From 1959 to 1999, as Cokie explained, he has served everywhere and done everything; and he's still doing it. Tom, the Foreign Service doesn't have a Hall of Fame, but it should, and you and others here tonight belong in it.

I also want to congratulate Ambassador Brandon Grove and Dan Geisler and Louise Eaton and our Director General, Skip Gnehm, our generous sponsors and everyone who helped to organize this magnificent event. It was a big job and everybody's done it terrifically well.

I especially endorse the conception of this anniversary as a challenge to look forward. Your goal of outreach through this essay contest and other initiatives is right on target, for if we are to match or surpass the accomplishments of the past 75 years, we must have the understanding and support of the American people. This requires that we tell the story of U.S. diplomacy clearly and well. It is to that purpose that I will attempt a modest contribution in my remarks here tonight.

Thank God I don't have to win any contests. (Laughter.)

I start with a simple request. Let us take the old, but persistent, stereotype of the diplomat as dilettante and do to it what one Presidential candidate wanted us to do to the tax code: let us drive a stake through it, kill it, bury it and make sure that it never rises again.

The job of the Foreign Service today is done with hands on and sleeves rolled up. It is rarely glamorous, often dangerous and always vital.

In my travels, I have seen our people at work not only in conference rooms, but in visits to refugee camps, AIDS clinics and mass grave sites. I have seen them share their knowledge and enthusiasm for democracy with those striving to build a better life in larger freedom.

I have seen them and their families give freely of their energy and time to comfort the ill and aid the impoverished. I have seen them provide incredible administrative support despite antiquated equipment, crowded workspace and impossible time constraints. And I've stood with head bowed at memorial services for heroes struck down while representing America or helping others to achieve peace. In the past 35 years, the number of names listed on the AFSA plaque has grown from 77 to 186. And the memory of those most recently inscribed, as Tom Pickering's toast reflected, is fresh and painful in our hearts.

So let us not be shy about proclaiming this truth. In a turbulent and perilous world, the men and women of the Foreign Service are on the front lines every day, on every continent for us. Like the men and women of our armed forces—no more, but no less—they deserve, for they have earned, the gratitude and full backing of the American people.

Now, having impaled that stereotype, let's proceed to the second challenge. Let us make clear to our citizens the connection between what we do and the quality of life they enjoy; let us demonstrate that there's nothing foreign about foreign policy any more.

Consult any poll, visit any community hall, listen to any radio talk show; it's no secret what Americans care about, fear and hope for the most. Certainly, foreign policy isn't everything. We cannot tell any American that our diplomacy will guarantee safe schools, clean up the Internet or pay for long term health care.

But we can say to every American that foreign policy may well help you to land a good job; protect your environment; safeguard your neighborhood from drugs; shield your family from a terrorist attack; and spare your children the nightmare of nuclear, chemical or biological war.

Our Foreign Service, Foreign Service National and Civil Service personnel contribute every day to America through the dangers they help contain, the crimes they help prevent, the deals they help close, the rights